

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We strongly support your plan to issue an Executive Order requiring federal contractors to pay service and construction employees at least \$10.10 an hour. This is an excellent first step, and we believe Congress should go further by raising the minimum wage for all American workers. As you prepare to issue this Executive Order, we hope you will ensure that those operating concessions in federal buildings, such as fast food businesses, be included in the scope of the Executive Order, so that their employees are also paid a fair wage.

We agree with your comments during your State of the Union address that no one who works full time should have to raise a family in poverty. Yet, many of those employers operating concessions do not pay their workers enough so that families can make ends meet. For example, facts show that the majority of workers in the \$200-billion-a-year fast food industry, many of whom work in concessions, are not untrained teenagers but actually family breadwinners. The median wage for core front-line workers at fast food restaurants nationally is only \$8.69 an hour, even though more than two-thirds of these workers are over the age of 20, and 68 percent are the main wage earners in their families. Additionally, more than a quarter of Americans working in fast-food restaurants are parents, raising at least one child.

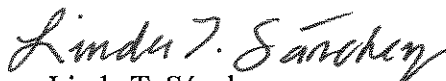
Raising the wages of those people working concessions in federal buildings will provide an economic savings to American taxpayers. That's because workers in industries like fast food are paid so little that having to rely on public assistance is the rule, rather than the exception, even for those working 40 hours or more a week. A recent study found that 52 percent of fast food workers are forced to enroll their families in public assistance programs, such as Medicaid or food stamps.

Given the stagnation in the wages for working people, your Executive Order could not come at a better time. American workers deserve a raise, not just to ensure the federal government isn't depressing wages through the contracting process, but also for the health of our overall economy. We thank you again for issuing this Executive Order and urge you to ensure it will include all of those working in concessions, including fast food workers. Additionally, we pledge to continue to work with you to see an expeditious increase in the minimum wage.

Sincerely,



Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

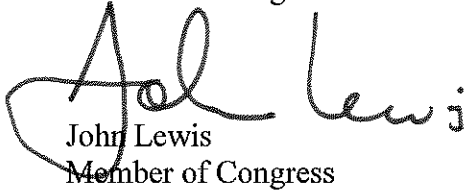
The Honorable Barack Obama

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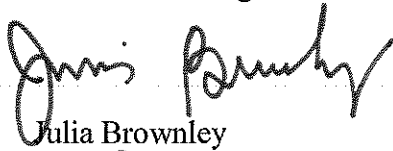
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



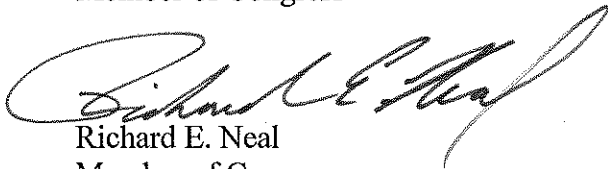
William L. Owens
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



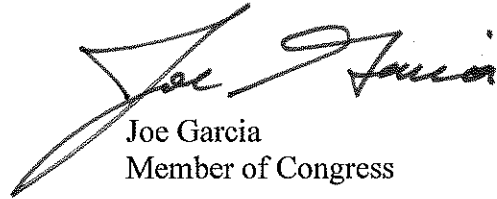
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Joe Garcia
Member of Congress



Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress



Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

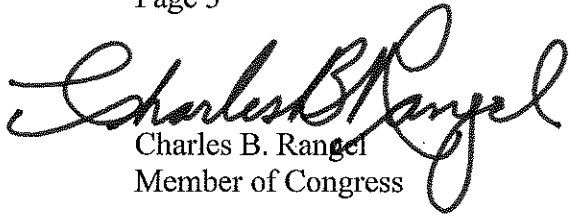


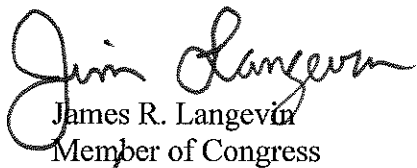
Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

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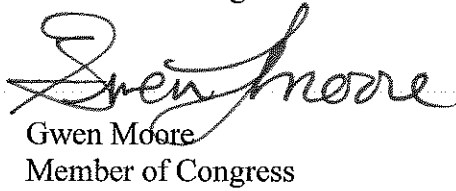
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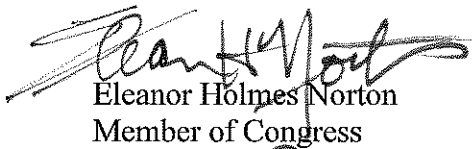
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Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress


James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

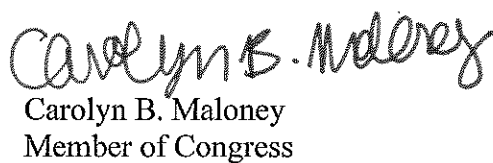

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

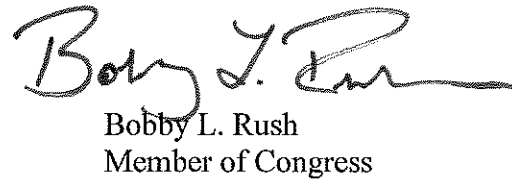

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

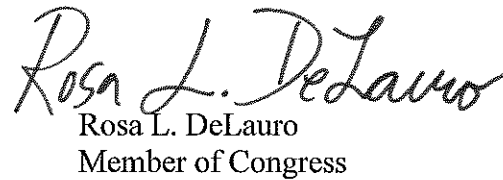

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

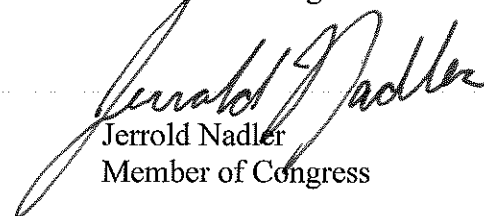

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

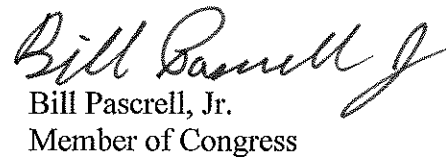

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress


Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

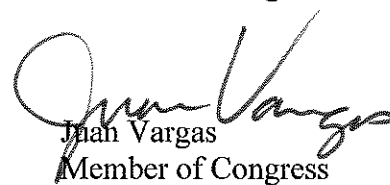

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

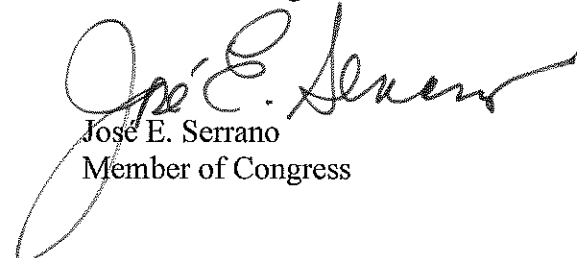

Grace Meng
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

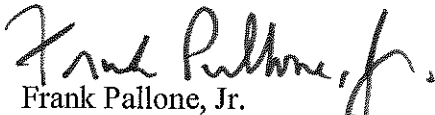

Sam Farr
Member of Congress


Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

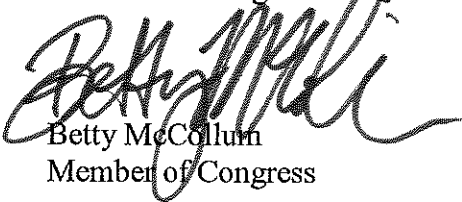

Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



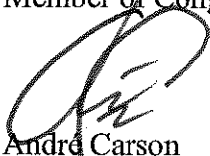
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



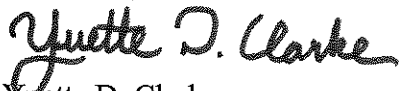
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



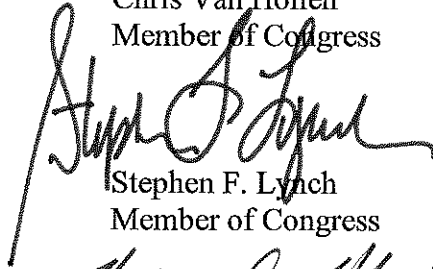
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



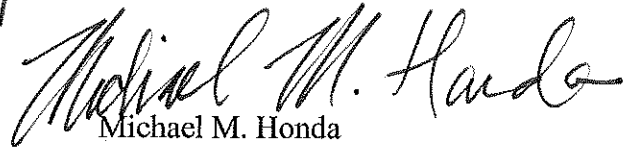
Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



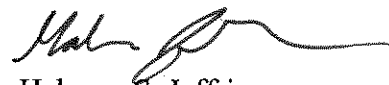
Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne Jr.
Member of Congress



Hakeem S. Jeffries
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress